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EXPENDABLE TORQUE CONVERTER ALIGNMENT
RING AND ASSEMBLY METHOD

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In a preferred embodiment, an expendable alignment ring is adapted for centering opposing conical surfaces of a transmission torque converter and an engine crankshaft. The ring has an annular body formed of a thermoplastic such as high density polyethelene. The body has first and second ends formed by axially spaced inner and outer coaxial conical surfaces extending between inner and outer peripheries. The ring is installed over a pilot of the torque converter so that the conical ends of the ring align the conical surfaces of the torque converter and the crankshaft during assembly to center the torque converter relative to the crankshaft. Upon assembly of the torque converter to the crankshaft, the alignment ring is slightly compressed and provides the mechanism for precise alignment of the torque converter to the crankshaft. During subsequent engine operation, the alignment ring softens and is flattened or destroyed so as not to interfere with axial motion of the pilot during ballooning of the torque converter.